

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-03 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07

L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00 DODE-00 SAM-01 SS-15

NSC-05 H-01 IO-10 CG-00 DOTE-00 INT-05 OES-03 NIC-01

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R 211300Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1117

US MISSION NATO 531

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPT PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, EFIS, PO, SP, UR.

SUBJ: NATO AND SOVIET FISHING FACILITIES

REF: A. LISBON 802

B. USNATO 818

C. STATE 35054

D. MOSCOW 1780

IN RESPONSE TO REF A AND OF POSSIBLE USE IN CONSUL-TATIONS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED IN NATO, EMBASSY PROVIDES FOLLOWING INFO ON BACKGROUND OF SOVIET FISHING FACILITIES IN CANARY ISLANDS.

2. SPAIN AND USSR, WHICH HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, REESTABLISHED CONTACT FOR THE FIRST TIME FOLLOWING CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN IN 1967 WHEN AN UNDERSTANDING

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WAS REACHED BY BOTH COUNTRIES TO ALLOW THEIR VESSELS

TO USE EACH OTHER'S PORTS. A FORMAL, ALVEIT PRIVATE, MARITIME AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN 1969 BY TWO SPANISH COMPANIES, TOBACOS FILIPINAS AND VAPORES SUARDIAZ, WITH THE SOVIET BLACK SEA MARITIME CO. THE AGREEMENTS PROVIDED FOR OPENING OF SOVIET BLACK SEA OFFICE IN MADRID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMPANY (50/50) KNOWN AS SOVHISPAN TO OVERSEE FISHING OPERATIONS. SOVHISPAN IS AUTHROIZED USE OF PORT FACILITIES IN CANARY ISLANDS, PRINCIPALLY LAS PALMAS AND SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE. PORTS PROVIDE BASES FOR SOVIET FISHING FLEET ILWID AND SOUTH ATLANTIC, AS

WELL AS CONSIDERABLE INCOME TO SPANISH PORTS IN AN INSULAR PROVINCE WHICH IS CONSIDERED A DEPRESSED AREA DESPITE SURGE OF TOURIST INDUSTRY.

3. SOVIET MINISTER OF FISHERIES ALEXANDER ISHKOV, VISITED SPAIN SEPT 15-23, 1973, THE FIRST VISIT BY A SOVIET MINISTER SINCE CIVIL WAR. ALTHOUGH HIS VISIT WAS "PRIVATE" IN CHARACTER ISHKOV HELD HIGH LEVEL TALKS WITH SPANISH MINISTERIAL COUNTERPART AND VISITED OTHER MAJOR SPANISH PORTS INCLUDING TENERIFE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET PRESSURES TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC HOME LEAVE FOR FISHING CREWS, SPANISH AIR LINES (AVIACO AND TRANSEUROPA) WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENT FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS WITH AEROFLOT BETWEEN CANARY ISLANDS AND MOSCOW FOR TRANSPORTATION OF CREWS. THIS SERVICE WAS INITIATED IN MAY 1973. UNDER ITS TERMS AEROFLOT MAY MAKE ONE STOPOVER IN SPAIN BUT IS PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP PASSENGERS. SOME OF THESE FLIGHTS, BUT NOT ALL, LAN X IN MADRID.

5. SPANISH MFA HAS RAISED WITH EMBOFFS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ISSUE OF PRESENCE IN CANARY ISLAND PORTS OF HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SOVIET "FISHING" VESSELS WHICH OFTEN-TIMES APPLY LATE FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE PORT CALLS. MFA HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT IN INTEREST OF PROHIBITING ANY SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

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INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES BY ITS VESSELS CALLING AT THESE PORTS, GOS WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY. IN EARLY FEB SPANISH AUTHORITIES PULLED IN SOVIET FISHING VESSEL FISHING IN SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS. SOVIET CAPTAIN WAS RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND A NEW CAPTAIN WAS SENT FROM USSR TO LAS PALMAS. SAME VESSEL UNDER NEW CAPTAIN WAS PULLED IN BY SPANISH NAVAL VESSEL FEB

12 FO R FISHING AGAIN IN SPANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS.  
SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE HERE HAS PROTESTED INCIDENT  
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. COMMENT: INFORMAL MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH USSR COMES UP FOR RENEWAL THIS YEAR. TWO SIDE S HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS IN MADRID AND MOSCOW BUT SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF EARLY AGREEMENT. SOVIETS ARE PRESSING FOR OFFICIAL TYPE OF AGREEMENT. SPANISH EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIETS INDICATES THAT SOVIETS, AFTER OBTAINING FISHING RIGHTS, ASKED FOR SPECIAL AIR RIGHTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE PERIODIC LEAVE FOR THEIR CREWS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO USE SAME TACTICS AGAIN. SECONDLY, SPANIARDS HAVE NOTED THAT UNDER GUISE OF FISHING FLEET, SOVIETS HAVE USED A Q CANARY ISLAND PORTS FOR REFITTING AND SUPPLYING OTHER VESSELS WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED MISSIONS. GOS KEEPS CLOSE TABS ON SOVIET MARITIME TRAFFIC AND REQUIRES VESSELS TO GIVE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF PLANNED PORT ENTRIES. MFA, HOWEVER, IS NOT ALTOGETHER HAPPY WITH SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH ITS REQUIREMENTS.EATON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED

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## Message Attributes

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